

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CHARLES "RANDY" RANDAL BENJAMIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles "Randy" Randal Benjamin, who passed away on Wednesday, February 12, at the age of 70.

Randy was born on February 23, 1949, in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He graduated from Hurricane High School in 1967 and later answered the call to serve our great nation in the United States Air Force.

In 1970, Randy married Pat Graham, and they remained together for over 49 years and had two children. He started his business, Connect Two, Inc., in 2001 in Pontotoc. Randy was an active member at First Baptist Church in Pontotoc and set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an avid bass fisherman and a proud charter member of the Pontotoc Bass Club.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Pat Benjamin; his daughter, Tonya Shirley; his son, Chip Benjamin; his grandchildren, Lindsey Claire Shirley, Ryan Shirley, Harper Benjamin, and Tripp Benjamin, as well as many friends and extended family members.

Randy's life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND EFFORTS OF LT. COL. JIM CANNON

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cannon for his efforts in pioneering the National Workforce Awards. Located in Athens, West Virginia, this company's sole purpose is to provide national awards for employers that want to appreciate, encourage, and motivate exceptional employees. Given after fulfillment of stringent criteria, these awards include the National Economic Welfare Medal, The National Productivity Cross, The National Distinguished Service Star, and The National Order of Job Formation.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon has truly dedicated his life to civil service. In 1965, he joined the Army and would serve for a total of 34 years as both an active duty and reserve officer. He received the Legion of Merit award in 1983 for eighteen years of exceptional meritorious conduct. After retiring from the military, he worked in the private sector as a Corporation Manager, yet he still involved himself in public affairs by becoming the Mayor of Princeton, West Virginia, in 1984 and serving until 1988.

In 1993, Lieutenant Colonel Cannon became the Vice President of Business and Finance at Concord University. This is where he came up with the idea to create a company that honors those that go above and beyond for their employers: while at work one unfortunate evening, Concord University's South Tower Residence Hall was caught ablaze by a student's candle. The Athens Fire Department quickly put out the fire, but students on two floors of the residence hall were displaced because of structural damage and fire extinguisher residue. The custodial staff at Concord worked around the clock to make the dorms habitable for the students effected, resulting in many moving back-in only after 24 hours.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon wished he could have put a medal on each and every community member, including Concord's Staff and the firefighters, that went above the call of duty to overcome this terrible accident. This is why he started the National Workforce Awards in 2015 to honor people across our nation that have done similar acts of excellence for their employers. I commend the National Workforce Awards for encouraging higher productivity, more innovation, and a strong, complete work ethic.

May God bless Lieutenant Colonel Cannon, and may he continue his work in recognizing great Americans throughout our country.

CONGRATULATING TRACEY CHILDRESS AS THE HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Tracey Childress of Hot Springs on her recognition as the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Woman of the Year.

This award is given yearly by the Chamber of Commerce based on the impact that members of a community have on their fellow man. Since she moved to Arkansas in 1992, Ms. Childress has been a vital part of the Hot Springs area, specifically in her work with the Cooper Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center where she has served as Director since January 2019. She worked as a forensic interviewer for several years, often cited as one of Arkansas' leading experts on Child First Forensic Interview Protocol.

In addition to her work, she is also a respected and active member of her church, a state and national forensic interview instructor, a certified law enforcement instructor, and a beloved mentor in the local YMCA Reach and Rise Program.

Ms. Childress provides this nation with a perfect example of what service can accomplish in a community both professionally and personally. I am proud to call her a friend and

a fellow Fourth District citizen. I take this time to congratulate her on her success as Woman of the Year and thank her for her continued service to the young people around us.

IN HONOR OF DR. MANUEL "MANNY" LOPEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life of Dr. Manuel "Manny" Lopez and his over 50 years of public service to the City of Oxnard. During his time as a dedicated public servant and throughout his career, Manny exhibited outstanding leadership, innovative community interaction, and distinguished professionalism, and he paved the way for future leaders to continue his unparalleled legacy of service to the community.

Manny was born in Oxnard, California on June 1, 1927 to immigrant parents who fled the Mexican Revolution. A son of farmworkers, Manny would graduate from Oxnard High School and Ventura College before finishing his undergrad at San Diego State University. It was shortly after that he attended the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry. In 1962, Manny opened the first bilingual optometry practice in the community and served patients for over 50 years until his retirement in 2016.

In 1978, Manny became the first Latino to be elected to the Oxnard City Council. He served as a member of the Oxnard City Council until 1992, when he became the first elected Latino Mayor of Oxnard. He served as Mayor until 2004. After serving as the Mayor of Oxnard for over a decade, Manny took a four-year break from public service. Manny returned to local government in 2008 when he was elected as the Commissioner to the Port of Hueneme five-member Board of Harbor Commissioners. He served as a Harbor Commissioner until his passing in 2020.

Manny devoted his time to giving back to the community and served on many local boards including the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Board, Oxnard Community Relations Commission, City of Oxnard Redevelopment Agency, Oxnard College Foundation, Oxnard Planning Commission, Tri-County Optometric Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard. He dedicated his life to helping those around him and was a founding member of several service-oriented and philanthropic groups including the CSUCI Foundation, Sister City Oxnard-Ocotlán, Ventura County Community Foundation's Destino Fund, and the Ventura County Community Foundation Women's Legacy Fund.

Throughout his life, Manny embodied the spirit of giving back, and his more than five decades in public service is evidence of his passion for making Oxnard a thriving community for everyone.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.